



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Book Reviews

Roman Farm Management. The Treatises of Cato and Varro Done into English, with Notes of Modern Instances, by a Virginia Farmer. New York: Macmillan, 1913. Pp. xii+365. \$2.00 net.

The editor of this volume is a graduate of Yale University and his vocation is that of a railroad president. His avocation is farming. He made the acquaintance of Cato and Varro several years ago while "standing at a book stall on the Quai Voltaire in Paris, and they carried him away in imagination, during a pleasant half-hour, not to the vineyards and olive yards of Roman Italy, but to the blue hills of a far-distant Virginia where the corn was beginning to tassel and the fat cattle were loafing in the pastures."

In a digression, quite in the manner of Cato, the reviewer would like to remark that this fact alone causes him much pleasure. For twenty-five years he has been faithfully trying to teach Latin, but he fears that his students have been few, who, many years after graduation, could take up a copy of Cato, or of Varro, and read it with pleasure for a half-hour, or even read it at all so as to get anything out of it, for the difficulties of these authors are everywhere acknowledged. Yet here is a college graduate, whose life has been successfully devoted to business, not simply able to amuse himself by *reading* Cato and Varro, but also to publish an important translation of these authors, with abundant and scholarly notes.

The translator followed up his half-hour's acquaintance of these two Roman agronomists and he quickly discovered that no adequate and available English versions of their works existed. The earlier translations are not merely a century old, but they were made by men who were apparently unacquainted with the diction of their authors. Therefore "a Virginia Farmer" set about the delightful task of rendering the works of Cato and of Varro really accessible to English readers, and in 1910 he published a very charming little book, entitled *Cato's Farm Management*.

Cato's almost complete lack of method in arranging his material is only too well known. "A certain effort at arrangement may be traced through a considerable portion, but the remainder has all the flavor of an old-time book of receipts, with the same lack of logical sequence" (Frank Gardner Moore). For the purpose of making a readable edition of Cato's book the translator decided, "at the risk of anathema," to arrange Cato's material in proper order and to omit "most of those portions which are now of merely curious interest." This means that many passages of Cato's one extant work are not here given in translation.

The present volume of xii+365 pages is the outgrowth of the earlier book. In this is given almost without change the material of *Cato's Farm Management*, together with a complete translation of Varro's *Rerum Rusticarum Libri Tres*. A few of the notes originally given in connection with the translations from Cato now appear in the part of the book devoted to Varro, while a few more sections of Cato are translated and many of the notes are largely amplified, being made at once more valuable and interesting. For example, the edition of 1910 ended with "A Virginia Recipe for Curing Hams." To this is now added "A Virginia Recipe for Cooking Hams," with the postscript: "To be thoroughly appreciated a ham should be carved on the table, by a pretty woman. A thick slice of ham is a crime against good breeding."

The translator expressly wishes to lay no claim to scholarship and to anticipate possible criticism he quotes Bentley's "a very pretty poem, Mr. Pope, but don't call it Homer." The reviewer has carefully read the whole volume and compared many portions of it with the Latin of the original. He is happy to say that he has found the translation very accurate and expressed in most excellent and spirited English. It is not the sort of translation that a school boy would want to serve as a lexicon and to save wear and tear on his brain in putting his assignment into "English." If a good translation is the best commentary on an author's works, this is an admirable commentary. It cannot fail to bring pleasure and profit to all who could be interested in the subject. To the present reviewer, who has read and enjoyed Cato, even with all his ruggedness and fondness for digressions, as well as Varro, with his peculiar and archaic diction, the book has proved most fascinating. "This is a delightful book, the ripe product of a gentleman and a scholar," as the editor himself says of Harte's *Essays on Husbandry*.

The volume is intended for "those who love the country, and to read about the country amidst the crowded life of towns." It will also serve as a handbook of practical rules covering most things which even today are connected with agriculture.

O fortunatos nimium, sua si bona norint,
agricolas!

Here they will find safe and sane directions for selecting and buying a farm, and also for building the house and barns. There are rules for ploughing and sowing, as well as for gathering the crop into the barns. The kind of soil and cultivation necessary for the production of nearly all cereals, vegetables, and fruits, except a few like maize and potatoes, are explained in detail. The various animals of value to the farmer are discussed in their proper order. The "points" of each and the best method of breeding are described. Then, too, the modern farmer will without doubt be astonished to learn that our self-binding harvester had as a direct ancestor a Gallic header, which is described by Varro, Pliny, and Palladius.

Moreover, the value of the book is greatly increased by the excellent notes. For these the editor has delved deeply into the works of all the Greek and

Roman writers on farming, including Hesiod, Xenophon, Aristotle, Pliny, Columella, Palladius and the *Geoponica*. There are also notes from old and rare English books on the subject and occasionally from other more modern sources. In some cases one might wish that more notes had been given, since the editor had the material so easily at his command. Many more quotations from Vergil might have been used in the body of the book, where they would have been of interest at least to the general reader. On page 250 the reviewer would have given a reference even to Kipling's story, "The Cat That Walked by Himself."

Moreover, the editor is a practical farmer. The notes in which are described customs and practices prevailing in various sections of this country form an important part of the work.

There is a good introduction on the lives and writings of the two authors, and an article of four pages in length giving a list of those passages in which Vergil was clearly under obligation to Varro.

The volume is a distinct contribution to classical scholarship and also to the literature readily accessible to the intelligent farmer. The reviewer wishes it a wide circulation among scholars, farmers, and others. Even to the modern giver of luncheons and afternoon teas in her brain-racking search for "new" and wonderful concoctions the book should prove a real blessing. How many, for example, have ever tried this recipe for must cake? "Sprinkle a peck of wheat flour with must. Add anise, cumin, two pounds of lard, a pound of cheese and shredded laurel twigs. When you have kneaded the dough, put laurel leaves over it and so bake." Who knows but that shredded laurel twigs are as appetizing and nutritious as shredded cocoanut? Also, the silver-tongued campaign orator, who wishes to prove that we have no reason to complain about the increase in the cost of living, may find here some facts of value to his argument. Do all of our economists know that at Rome in the first century before Christ an egg of a pea fowl sold for \$1.00, and a pea fowl itself for \$10.00? At that time a pair of pigeons sold for \$10.00, \$50.00, and even \$80.00, while later the price advanced to \$200.00! Thrushes, also, sold for 60 cents a piece.

The book is printed on excellent paper, with the headings of the pages and a few initials in red. The binding is in imitation vellum, with the title printed in gold, making a book unusually attractive in appearance.

The reviewer hopes that the translator will soon give us an equally valuable edition of the works of Columella.

M. N. WETMORE

WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Stoics and Sceptics. By EDWYN BEVAN. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913. Pp. 152.

Greek scholarship in England has in recent years been usefully, but perhaps excessively, preoccupied with the study of primitive religion in the ancient